

## TWO MEN SHOT.

A Fight at Silver Creek Between  
Saloon Men and Steve  
Johnson.

Johnson alias "Kelly" is Killed. Joe  
Roberts Wounded—Not Ex-  
pected to Live.—The  
Coroners Jury.

Wednesday night, December 25th, the saloon tent owned by a man named Mitchell at Silver creek, about forty miles from Bisbee, was the scene of a gun fight which was exciting enough to suit the wildest imagination of the inhabitants of that vicinity. The man who created the disturbance is known by the name of Kelly, which seems to be his Arizona name, as men who have known him for years give his true name as Jesse Johnson, a half-brother of John Craven, of New Mexico.

The deceased was first seen in the camp about 1 p. m. on the 26th when he was in the saloon of Mitchell and talked with the day bar tender for about half an hour. At this time he asked directions and distances to several different ranches within a radius of 100 miles and left the impression that he was about to leave. He got on his horse and rode off. At this time he was dressed in a light pair of trousers and wore a pair of low cut shoes. When he next made his appearance he was armed with a Winchester rifle, wore leggings and had a six-shooter strapped around his waist. He was so disguised that men who had seen him during the day failed to recognize him.

It was about 9 o'clock when he stepped into the door of the tent with a Winchester in his hands and opened fire. Joe Roberts, a rock man who is at work for the railroad, was standing at the bar and was wounded at the first shot. The lights went out and Johnson still continued to use his Winchester. In the room at the time were several men who were employed on the grade, together with Louis Sennett, night bartender, and C. B. Mitchell, a son of the proprietor of the place. When the first shot was fired, Mr. Sennett was standing in the center of the room by the stove. He jerked his six-shooter and opened fire on the man with the Winchester. C. B. Mitchell, who was behind the bar at the time, got into the fight with his gun, and after emptying his six-shooter picked up a shot gun and opened fire. Firing from the outside of the tent was going on all this time. Some of the shots from the outside set fire to the tent and in all about thirty shots were fired.

After the smoke cleared away Roberts, who was standing at the bar when the firing commenced, was lying on the floor beside the door and just outside the body of Johnson, alias Kelly, was found. Johnson was dead but Roberts was still alive. Mitchell and Sennett were uninjured and left Silver creek the next morning and arrived in Bisbee Thursday night and gave themselves up to the officers.

The wounded man was brought to town in a wagon and was shot once in the groin and once through the hand. At the coroners inquest last night he was brought into the court room on a cot and was examined by the jury. His testimony was very incoherent, and rambling and was entirely different from any of the other testimony given. He said he was shot on Friday in the day time while packing a cart into a rock cut where he was at work.

The dead man was also brought to Bisbee yesterday and a telegram from relatives said to bury the body here. Several witnesses were examined before the coroner's jury Friday night but none seemed to know why Johnson went into that saloon shooting. One witness did testify that "Johnson told him that the men in that saloon intended to kill him and that he (Johnson) was going down there and try and get a explanation."

C. B. Mitchell, who was behind the bar at the time the shooting commenced, says that a hold up had been attempted on this saloon before.

The fact remains that he armed himself with a Winchester, went a quarter of a mile down there and opened fire on the inmates from the door, wounding Roberts, an innocent man at the first shot, and shooting at Mr. Sennett twice before he was killed. From the testimony it would seem that some one on the outside took a hand in the fight, as about thirty shots were fired—some coming from the outside. From the testimony it would also appear that it was an attempted hold up, or else Johnson went down there to kill some one in that saloon, although there was no bad blood existing between the men.

Johnson, the deceased, was a cowboy and he and a man named Eugene Hopper had a camp together.

## SOME OF THE TESTIMONY.

Jim Gould, a teamster who lately worked on the Morenci Southern in Graham county, was in the tent at the time the shooting occurred. He testified that about 10 o'clock Johnson jumped into the door of the tent with Winchester rifle and commenced shooting. That the inmates of the tent at that time were C. B. Mitchell, Louis Sennett, Roberts, Leonard Lee, a negro, and Blackie Burke. That after Johnson fired the first shot Sennett opened fire on him and deceased fired about three shots from the door before he was killed. Several shots came from the outside at the same time. He gave the order of the shots as follows: First by Johnson, second by Mitchell, from behind the bar; third by Johnson; fourth by Sennett. Mr. Gould testified that Roberts fell at the

beginning of the shooting. In answer to a question he said that Roberts was close enough to Mitchell to have been powder burnt from his revolver. That when the shooting commenced Roberts was standing with his back to the door but did not notice his position as he fell.

Henry Mitchell a 14-year old boy and a son of the proprietor told a straight story. He said Johnson came in saloon with Winchester and commenced shooting. He saw Roberts fall at the first shot and hid behind the bar where there was some barrels and then climbed out through the tent when the shooting was over. He testified to about thirty shots being fired, some from the outside.

William Henry Brown who has lived at Mulberry in this county about eleven months, and who was at Silver Creek the night of the killing testified that he and Jesse Johnson was at another saloon on the night of the killing. That about 9 o'clock he and Johnson got on their horses and rode down towards Mitchell's saloon. That on the way down there a distance of about a quarter of a mile, Kelly said "those boys down at that saloon say we cowpunchers are going to hold them up—we will go down there and tell them their mistake." "I told him not to go and persuaded him to turn around and go back to the upper saloon. I then went off and was gone to another camp and when I returned I heard of the shooting and went down there and saw Roberts and Johnson lying on the ground."

Henry McCarty, a miner who was at the upper saloon, a distance of a quarter of a mile from the scene of the shooting, saw Johnson take his Winchester out of his scabbard, test the loading lever, reload it and start in the direction of Mitchell's saloon. When he started Johnson said he thought he would go down and see about something. McCarty tried to persuade him not to go. Johnson was gone about five minutes when the shots were heard.

Eugene Hopper an acquaintance of the deceased testified he was at the upper saloon when Johnson started out and said he would be back in a few minutes—that he understood that some parties down at the other saloon had threatened to kill him if he went down there. Hopper says he tried to keep Johnson from going and told him not to go down there and get into trouble and John on said he was only going down there to explain the matter satisfactorily.

The other witnesses told about the same story in regard to the shooting in the tent. The coroner's jury returned from the scene of the killing Friday evening and heard the testimony last night. Their verdict is as follows:

We the jury upon our oaths each and all do say, that we find the deceased was named Jesse Johnson was a native of the United States aged about 40 years; that he came to his death on the 26th day of December A. D. 1900 in said Cochise county from the effects of gunshot wounds inflicted by Clifford Mitchell and Louis Sennett on said date with malice aforethought and intent to commit murder.

J. H. BOWEN,  
W. A. HANNUM,  
J. W. BLAIR,  
CLAUDE FARRIS,  
RICHARD DAVIS,  
FRED WOHLSCHEGEL.

## Program.

Christmas exercises of the Sabbath school, Library Hall, Dec. 30, 7:30 p. m.  
Song—"Merry Christmas Bells" School  
Invocation.....Pastor  
Song—"Christ is Born Today".....Class  
.....of Girls  
Scripture Reading.....J. G. Fritchard  
Song—"The Snow Prayer".....8 girls  
Recitation.....Bessie Hammer  
Anthem.....Choir  
Recitation.....Willie Ham  
Recitation.....Jessie Hughes  
Song—"Prayer of Adoration".....10 girls  
Recitation.....Elsie Toles  
Anthem.....Male Quartette  
Recitation.....Vida Scribner  
Song—"Chiming Christmas Bells".....  
.....Class of Girls  
Address.....Rev. T. C. Moffet  
Song—"Lift Up the Voice".....School  
Benediction.....

On Thursday afternoon, at the hospital, the Copper Queen surgeons amputated the left leg of Benavén Munger, the Mexican who was run over by the switch engine at Don Luis about two weeks ago. Every effort had been made to save the limb but, as amputation was finally found to be necessary to save the man's life, the operation was resorted to.

BORN—On December 23d, to the wife of Edward Scott, a son.

On Christmas day, to the wife of Felts E. Baldwin, a son.

Thos. P. Nichols, stenographer for Curry & Co., of Naco, came up Christmas morning on his wheel to spend Christmas with friends. Mr. Nichols took dinner with several parties. He was also up at the Stag Club spread.

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MRS. M. BLUETT, Proprietor

Boots, Shoes  
and SlippersFor Ladies and  
GentlemenMain Street Two doors above  
the Post Office

## Naco Items.

(From our Regular Correspondent)

Drs. Farrington and Edmonson were seen on the streets on Saturday.

A car load of packing house products was received here last week. Our merchants are buying most of their supplies now in car lots, which speaks well for our fast growing town.

Quite a sandstorm came up Thursday morning and made things very unpleasant for awhile. Naco is noted for its sandstorms.

Joseph Schwartz was in town all last week. Mr. Schwartz has secured a large contract with the Greene people, and is also doing considerable work for the A. & S. E. R. R.

It was rumored around town last Friday that the Mormon freighters were all going to strike for more money for the freight hauled into Sonora, but as nothing further has been heard of it it is believed to be nothing but a groundless rumor.

Dr. G. S. Hall passed through here last Saturday evening from Nacosari on his way to Tombstone to spend Xmas. The doctor looked tired and dusty from his long trip on the stage. It is said the roads between Nacosari and here are now very dusty and traveling over the stage line is not quite as comfortable as riding over the A. & S. E. R. R.

Lig Clifford, of Nacosari, was on the stage coming in Saturday evening. Mr. Clifford went on into Bisbee.

Otto Geisenhefer was in town last week.

Lem Shattuck passed through Sunday on his way to Bisbee. He just returned from the State of Sonora where he was looking after his mining interests.

Messrs. Curry & Co. received a shipment of fine large turkeys from Phoenix and made each of their customers a Christmas present of a turkey. The majority of the residents of Naco ate turkey for Christmas.

Dr. Shaw the cattle inspector left last week for Nogales. The doctor said before leaving he would eat Xmas dinner in Hermosillo. He is expected to return in a few days.

F. J. Nichols, formerly billing clerk for the A. & S. E. R. R. passed through here Friday morning for the Cananea where he will accept a stenographic position under Mr. Wightman.

A number of Naco boys went over to Bisbee Sunday. Some in buggies, on horses, wheels and on foot. Among those who went over were Messrs. Goodbody, Hinton, Kinzer and Nichols. There was also a number of our boys over there Christmas.

Quite a crowd came down from Bisbee Christmas to the entertainment given by the citizens of Naco. A large number staid for the grand ball, which was a great success. The committee who had the entertainment in hand have been receiving praises for their fine management of the affair. Everything went off smoothly and every one was highly pleased.

Mr. George Mitchell of the Greene company came in from the Cananea Thursday and will remain in Naco for several days. The Cananea stage goes out three times a week loaded down with passengers. Several Bisbee faces are recognized on every trip.

Mr. Wilson, civil engineer of the A. & S. E. R. R. was here the early part of the week surveying for a new siding. The A. & S. E. yards are now taxed to their utmost capacity and by putting in this new siding it will help matters greatly. A large force of Mexican laborers are now grading for this new siding. Supt Morgan was here Thursday looking over the road.

George Shibley and C. W. Cannon came in on the motor Wednesday morning from Don Luis.

Scott White made a flying trip to Bisbee Thursday evening returning early Friday morning.

The Cooper Novelty Co. showed to a large and enthused audience for two nights this week. A show of this kind is well received and appreciated by the people of Naco. Naco has but very few entertainments of this kind and the ones we are fortunate enough to secure are well patronized.

Thursday morning one of our colored brethren indulged too freely in the Mexican National drink (mescal) and started out to paint the border town crimson, but was checked before he accomplished his purpose and was put into a box car by some of the boys, where he slept the sleep of the innocent until next morning.

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